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JFK ACT RELEASE

GARRISON CLAIMS FOREIGN SPY LINK

Says He Exchanged Data About President Kennedy

By PETER KIHSS

District Attorney Jim Garrison asserted yesterday that his office had been exchanging information with a foreign intelligence agency that he said had "penetrated the forces involved in the assassination" of President Kennedy.

In a telephone interview, the New Orleans prosecutor said that the agency was from a government that was "a military ally" of the United States and that its information "includes an interview with one of the assassins."

He said his office had set up a "liason" with this unspecified foreign operation for the "last three or four months," and had sent a representative abroad who "went to several countries in Europe" in that connection.

Over the telephone, Mr. Garrison also introduced an investigator for his office, "Bill Boxley, as a former Central Intelligence Agency instructor in the "clandestine operations department." He said he had found Mr. Boxley while seeking a "man who had been with the intelligence agency but still cared about the United States."

Mr. Boxley then said his real name was William C. Wood, he was 48 years old, originally from Texas; he had worked 10 years as a newspaper reporter —last on The Denver Post from 1948 to 1950; he had been with the intelligence agency two to five years in the 1950's overseas and in Washington and had "used as many as 10 different names in operations with the agency."

Comments on Epstein

District Attorney Garrison made his statements after he had been asked for comment on a 25,000-word article by Edward Jay Epstein in The New Yorker magazine on Mr. Garrison's 18-month inquiry and charges of conspiracy in the President's death. He held Mr. Epstein was "an amateur," and the "relevant comment" would be the current status of his inquiry.

Mr. Garrison said the "foreign intelligence agency" had arrived "by a completely different route" at the same analysis of the assassination of President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas as had his office. He asserted it had had a pre-assassination "penetration" in the plotters' group "for other reasons unconnected with the assassination."

He contended the "servicing of the operation was set up by individuals in C.I.A." and the men shooting were trained by C.I.A." Lee Harvey Oswald, held by the Warren commission to have been the lone assassin, he went on, had been recruited into the intelligence agency at Atsugi, Japan, but "didn't shoot anybody."

Involved, Mr. Garrison said, were "some extremely powerful men in the Southwest oil establishment," whose industry "as a result of extensive operations in the Mediterranean area has to work closely with the C.I.A."

There were "four assassination teams," each with one rifleman and one lookout, he said — one team on the seventh floor of the Dal-Tex Building, one on an upper floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building, and two ahead of the President's car on a grassy knoll.

Those at the rear, he said, hit President Kennedy and Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas in the back. Of the shots from the front, he said, one hit the President in the throat and another hit a street sign, but then another "tore off the President's head" with a "frangible bullet."

Mr. Garrison asserted the "top command of the C.I.A." had no knowledge of the plan, but afterward "the entire Federal government banded together" to conceal the Federal role.

He said President Kennedy had been "getting ready to recognize Cuba and Castro," arranging a "détente" with Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev of the Soviet Union and "bringing troops back from Vietnam." Afterward, Mr. Garrison said, his death was "treated as a mandate to change foreign policy."

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

New York Times
July 12, 1968

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A BOOK FOR TODAY

What Was Lee Oswald's Motive?

Evn Star 29 Oct 70

By REED J. IRVINE

THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN H. KENNEDY, THE REASONS WHY. By Albert H. Newman. Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 621 pages. $10.

Any reader of murder mysteries knows the importance of establishing a motive in determining the identity of the murderer. It has been recognized for some time that one of the serious weaknesses of the Warren Commission Report was its failure to show clearly why Lee Harvey Oswald wanted to kill John F. Kennedy.

Albert H. Newman, a veteran journalist, recognized that the failure of the Warren Commission to establish a convincing motive for Oswald's action was responsible for much of the suspicious reaction to the commission's conclusions.

Newman has written this book to show why Lee Harvey Oswald tried first to murder Gen. Edwin Walker, a passionate advocate of the far right in political philosophy, and then murdered President Kennedy, who represented a very different segment of the political spectrum. In doing so, he has produced a brilliant piece of detective work, one that would do credit to a Perry Mason or Sherlock Holmes.

Like any great detective, Newman recognizes the importance of trying to understand exactly how the mind of the murderer functioned. This requires careful examination of all the factors that influenced his thought and action. Newman set out to obtain as accurate a picture of the way Oswald thought as he possibly could. He did this by sifting with great care the mass of material assembled by the Warren Commission and by adding to this analysis of the material that Oswald was reading and listening to with his short-wave radio.

Developing a very credible map of Oswald's mind, Newman deduces how his overt acts were triggered by what he read in the papers and by what he heard on the radio. Oswald's consuming interest in life was politics, or more specifically the politics of Marxism. While the Warren Commission suggested that he was motivated to kill the President by his maladjustment to his environment, his hatred for American society, his desire to be a great man and his commitment to communism, it failed to make a credible case for any of these factors as motives for murder.

Newman painstakingly unravels the mystery of Oswald's peculiar conduct from the time he returned from the Soviet Union in June 1962 until he was shot down by Jack Ruby on Nov. 24, 1963.

Newman clearly establishes the fact that Oswald, after his 32-month sojourn in Soviet Russia, became a devotee of the Trotskyite brand of communism. He was disillusioned with communism as he had seen it in Russia, but Marxism remained his religion. He tried to join the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party, and he subscribed to its publication, The Militant. He came to share its ardent admiration of Fidel Castro.

Newman shows, quite persuasively, that Oswald's decision to murder Gen. Walker was triggered by Walker's strongly hawkish position on Cuba and his designation by the Communist press which Oswald read as America's leading "fascist."

Newman develops some interesting evidence that Oswald had several accomplices in his effort to kill Walker. For example, a snapshot that Oswald made of Walker's home in preparation for the murder attempt shows an automobile, and for some reason Oswald made a hole in the picture to obliterate the license tag. The inference is that Oswald was driven to the Walker residence by an accomplice, since he himself had no car and could not drive. Newman does not think these presumed accomplices were involved in the attack on President Kennedy, but he strongly criticizes the Warren Commission for not doing more to try to establish their existence and their identity.

The Warren Commission did not attach the same significance to Oswald's attack on Walker as does Newman. Newman shows that many of Oswald's seemingly inexplicable actions fit into a carefully conceived plan to murder Walker, flee to Cuba and be accorded a hero's welcome for having done away with this leading "fascist." Newman is convinced that Oswald continued to plot the murder of Walker even after his initial unsuccessful attempt. In fact, he believes that after killing the President, Oswald set out with his pistol to shoot Walker. By sheer chance police officer J. D. Tippit ended up being shot by Oswald instead.

But why the murder of John F. Kennedy? Newman shows that Kennedy too was a great enemy of Fidel Castro's. Shortly after Oswald returned to the U.S., the Cuban missile crisis broke out. The outcome was a defeat for Castro. Radio Havana was constantly heaping abuse on the United States and its President.

Newman points out that the Warren Commission was so unconcerned about the kind of ideas Oswald was ingesting that they did not even establish the fact that the radio he owned was capable of picking up the nightly broadcasts from Cuba. Oswald's radio did have a shortwave band, Newman discovered, and his habits suggested that he listened to Havana regularly. If he missed Castro's bitter diatribes against the U.S. and its leaders on the radio, he could frequently read them in full in The Militant.

There is a weakness in Newman's presentation in that it is not clear what led Oswald to abandon his long-range plan to kill Walker and escape to Cuba in favor of a plan to kill both Walker and Kennedy with almost no hope of escape.

I think Newman did not give adequate attention to the contents of The Militant. Oswald's favorite reading matter.

He should have noted that this publication was not only publishing Castro's inflammatory denunciations of Kennedy, but it was also caricaturing

Oswald's Widow Wins

A federal appeals court has awarded $17,729 to the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald for property seized during the FBI's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, ruling that Oswald's diary and other papers have historical importance. 27 Feb 73

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a Texas federal district court finding that Marina Oswald Porter was entitled to only $3,000 — the stipulated market value of property similar to that seized.

The items taken by the government for use in the compilation of the Warren Commission report consisted mainly of Oswald's personal effects, such as letters, a diary, family photographs, a marriage license and other personal effects.

The appeals court said it agreed with Mrs. Porter's claim that the items taken by the government had souvenir or

Kennedy as "a determined partner" of Mississippi Sen. James Eastland and as one who was "clinging" to the "Dixiecrats."

Newman suggests that the only thing Oswald had against Kennedy was his Cuba policy, but The Militant, which strongly influenced Oswald's thinking, played on many keys to inspire hatred of the President. And strangely, Newman, for all his attention to detail, overlooked a very significant passage from a Castro speech printed in a copy of the Militant that was found among Oswald's possessions. Castro said: "With the rifle and the work tool, the work tool and the rifle, with these both we must bring about our victory."

Newman points out that Oswald once told a friend that in reading the Communist papers you could tell what they wanted you to do by reading between the lines. Here was his idol, Castro, denouncing John F. Kennedy and in the same speech suggesting the use of the rifle to achieve victory. There was surely a message there for expert rifleman Lee Harvey Oswald. At least, that was the way he took it.

Even if one does not accept all of Newman's deductions and theories, his book makes highly interesting reading. It is a valuable contribution not only for the light it sheds on the slaying of John F. Kennedy, but for its demonstration of the impact that ideas have on human conduct.

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A federal appeals court
Oswald's

Russell Says He Never Believed Oswald Alone Planned Killing

14 Jan 70

By Don Oberdorfer
Washington Bureau of The Atlanta

Sen. Richard B. Russell, who was a member of the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, says he never believed that Lee Harvey Oswald planned the assassination alone.

"I think someone else worked with him on the planning," the Georgia Democrat said in one of a series of taped television interviews to be broadcast next month by WSB-TV, an Atlanta television station.

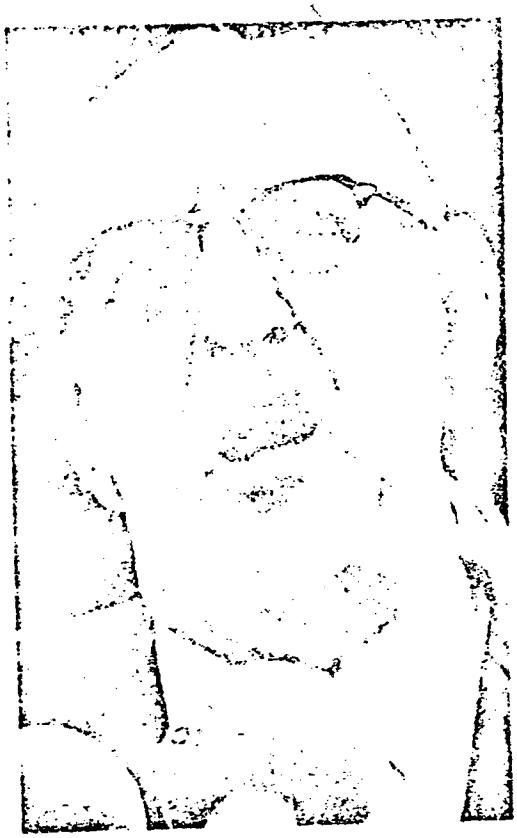
"There were too many things—the fact that he (Oswald) was at Minsk in the Soviet Union, and that was the principal center for educating Cuban students . . . some of the trips he made to Mexico City and a number of discrepancies in the evidence, or as to his means of transportation, the luggage he had and whether or not anyone was with him—(that) caused me to doubt that he planned it all by himself," he said.

Russell appeared to be in accord with the commission's conclusions that Oswald was the man who fired the shots at Kennedy, and that he acted alone. "I think that any other commission you might appoint today would arrive at that conclusion," he said.

Due to his doubts that Oswald planned the act alone, Russell said he insisted on a disclaimer sentence in the final report before he would sign it. That sentence in the report, which was issued in September, 1964, says that "because of the difficulty of proving negatives to a certainty the possibility of others being involved with either Oswald or (Jack) Ruby cannot be established categorically, but if there is any such evidence it has been beyond the reach of all the investigative agencies and resources of the United States and has not come to the attention of this commission."

The majority of the seven-member commission, headed by then-Chief Justice Earl Warren, "wanted to find" that Oswald planned and acted alone, Russell said.

Some 25 hours of interviews, which constitute the most extensive memoir yet available on the long public career of the 72-year-old Georgia senator, will be condensed to three one-hour programs for broadcast in Atlanta Feb. 11, 12 and 13.



Associated Press

Sen. Richard B. Russell, member of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, will expound his own views of that tragedy in a television interview in Atlanta.

Cox Broadcasting Co., owner of the Atlanta station, will present 30 minutes of program highlights at a Washington Hilton reception here Feb. 10. The members of the U.S. Senate, senior members of the House, administration officials, family and friends of Russell are being invited. Though the senator has been in ill health with emphysema and lung cancer, it is expected that he will attend.

Now president pro tempore of the Senate and the chairman of its Appropriations Committee, Russell has granted only rare interviews during recent years. None of those published have delved so deeply into his relationship with Lyndon B. Johnson, his Senate protege and later his close friend in the White House.

The relationship between the two men has been "one of the most peculiar in American history," say the Georgian in the taped interviews, evidently referring to their division of opinion on civil rights and many issues in later years which somehow did not prevent a continuing close friendship.

After Mr. Johnson became President, he would frequently summon his old friend and Senate mentor to the White House in the evenings. "I'd go down and we'd have a highball and eat supper and talk about things and people," the senator recalled. "He was always interested in people and what they were doing, the people up there on the Hill, without getting into any arguments about the matters that we differed over . . .

"He would call me about things, well, like the Dominican incident and things like that, the Panama Canal controversy. He never did stop advising with me on things like that. It was just on these domestic spending issues that he made so many mistakes . . . they made every conceivable mistake almost from the standpoint of administration and organization," Russell said.

Both Russell and Mr. Johnson were strongly opposed to U.S. military intervention in South Vietnam when it was first proposed in 1953. Once the U.S. became committed, Russell said in the taped interviews, he could not criticize Mr. Johnson for sending additional forces.

"My complaint with him was not for sending others in, but because we didn't go on and win the day by closing up the ports of North Vietnam. He let the timid souls in the State Department talk him out of that," said the senator. "He could have ended that war in six months any time."

Letter from Minsk

A 1962 letter written by Lee Harvey Oswald in Minsk, Russia, to his mother has been auctioned for $1,250 and a letter to Adolf Hitler from his wife sold for $500 here at an auction at Charles Hamilton Galleries. 1 Jul 72

Both purchases were made by an unidentified New York physician, the gallery said. Ev Star

The letter from Hitler's wife, Eva Braun, is believed to be the first to be auctioned in the United States, a gallery spokesman said. It is addressed to "Dear Friend" and was written Sept. 23, 1931, just after the suicide of Hitler's niece, Geli Raubal. — AP

By RICHARD STARNES

MEMPHIS, March 11 — [illegible] a courtroom [illegible] dramatic [illegible] dealing with a murder [illegible] been no final solution.

[illegible] proclamation yesterday the state of Tennessee [illegible] James Earl Ray [illegible] penitentiary at Nashville to start [illegible] the days end to end that would [illegible] add up to 99 years of a 99-year sentence.

JAMES EARL RAY

But there were few in Judge W. Preston Battle's airless courtroom who felt that the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been finally and fully resolved.

Judge Battle, prosecutor Phil M. Canale, defense attorney Percy Foreman — even Ray himself — all tacitly conceded that Ray may well have been in league in a conspiracy to murder Dr. King.

CONSPIRACY POSSIBLE

But if conspiracy existed, any breath of its subtle dimensions was smothered in the clockwork choreography of the ritual trial that began and ended yesterday morning in Shelby County Criminal Court.

Mr. Canale told reporters after the trial:

"There was some indication that he (Ray) was a racist and that that was the motive for the killing."

Asked if he thought conspiracy ever would be proven in the case, the prosecutor answered:

"I learned a long time ago not to rule out anything."

Earlier, Mr. Foreman, a big, shambling, genial man told the jury of 12 men that "it took me a month to convince myself that there was no conspiracy."

RAY HINTS

Ultimately, Mr. Foreman continued, he had reached the same conclusion earlier voiced by such luminaries as FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and former U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark: That there was no evidence that the murder of Dr. King was the product of conspiracy.

But when Mr. Foreman had finished his remarks to the jury, Ray almost upset the carefully-wrought agreement to barter his guilty plea for a prison term.

"I don't want to change anything," he said, alluding to his earlier agreement to the plea, "but I just want to say that I don't accept Mr. Clark's theory."

It was Ray obstinately insisting that he was not alone in the murder of the Negro civil rights leader, and for a moment it looked as if his caveat would overturn the bargain and mean endless, weary weeks of a full-dress murder trial.

But Judge Battle patiently led Ray back to the key question he had asked him earlier: "Do you plead guilty to murder in the first degree because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., under such circumstances that verdict of murder in the first degree would be justified?"

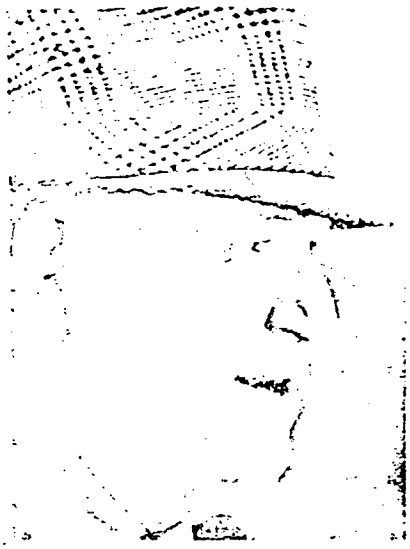
Meekly Ray answered, "Yes, sir," and the crisis was averted.

AT LEAST 50 YEARS

Ray would not be eligible for parole under his sentence for 50 years, by which time he would be 91 years old. The only way he could be released from prison earlier, apparently, would be to be pardoned by a Tennessee governor.

Mr. Canale opened the state's starkly abbreviated case against Ray by explaining to the jury that, despite the defendant's decision to change his plea to guilty, Tennessee law required a jury trial, and it required the jury's agreement in the penalty that had already been decided by prosecution, defense and the court.

"There have been many rumors that Ray was a dupe, a fall guy," Mr. Canale said, gingerly testing the quicksand of conspiracy implicit in the case, "but I want to say to you in all frankness that we have no proof, other than that Martin Luther King Jr. was killed by James Earl Ray, and by no one else.



James Earl Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, left, talked with newsmen after leaving the Memphis court house, and Trial judge Preston Battle, right, looked [illegible] relieved after pronouncing sentence.

money," Mr. Canale continued, "and we have examined over 200 physical bits of evidence, and I say to you that we have no evidence that any conspiracy ever existed."

If, the soft-spoken Mr. Canale added, evidence of conspiracy is "ever presented" that will be "prompt, vigorous action — you have my assurance on that."

At the conclusion of the pro forma trial, Judge Battle also addressed himself to the widespread rumors of conspiracy.

If — in spite of the lack of evidence — a conspiracy did actually exist, Judge Battle warned, "No member of such conspiracy can ever lie down in peace and security. In this state there is no statute of limitations on capital crimes."

As an additional warning to any unnamed conspirators lurking in the shadows that still enfold so much of the case, Judge Battle quoted Hamlet: "Murder, though it have no tongue, will speak with most miraculous organ."

Ray Conspiracy Panel Urged

Warren-Type Probe Urged

By TED KNAP

Rep. Charles C. Diggs Jr., D-Mich., said today he will ask President Nixon to appoint a Warren-type commission to investigate a possible conspiracy in James Earl Ray's murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Rep. Diggs, a Negro, said he is "inclined to believe there was a conspiracy." He said Mr. Nixon should appoint a presidential commission to investigate the King assassination the way the Warren Commission investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Dr. King's widow, Mrs. Coretta King — more than ever convinced of conspiracy — issued a statement saying that Ray's plea of guilty yesterday "cannot be allowed to close the case, to end the search for the many fingers which helped pull the trigger."

The Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Dr. King's successor as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, told a news conference in Atlanta that "my belief in the conspiracy has been strengthened."

PROBE 'OPEN'

The Justice Department said its investigation into possible conspiracy "is still open and the FBI probe is continuing."

A Justice spokesman said a Federal conspiracy warrant filed by the FBI in Birmingham, Ala., April 17 has not been dismissed.

Ray, pleading guilty to avoid possible death sentence, said in open court that he agreed to the 99-year prison term, "but I don't agree with these theories on the conspiracy." That referred to the statements of the prosecutor and defense attorney that there was no conspiracy.

'ALL SIGNS'

Rep. Diggs said "all signs appear to point in the direction" of a conspiracy. He referred to reports that Ray had received money, transportation and identification papers from outside sources.

"I just don't know if it should be made public," he said in an interview. "There could be consequences from these revelations. Whole groups might be targets of hostility."

Rep. Diggs said if a conspiracy is proved, he might not object to less than full disclosure of its

'Mystery Man' Link to King Plot Cited

By POWELL LINDSAY

A shadowy "mystery man" known only as "Raoul" stands today as the only link on the public record which ties James Earl Ray into a "conspiracy" plot in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In two articles published in Look Magazine last Nov. 12 and 26, author William Bradford Huie quotes Ray about his flight to Canada after escaping Missouri State Penitentary and of putting out "the word" in a Montreal bar that he needed money and identification papers in order to flee to South America.

This "word" led to a contact with a man Ray identified as "Raoul," who Ray said was a "blond Latin" in his mid-30's, according to Mr. Huie.

In August, 1967, Mr. Huie wrote, "Raoul" came up with this proposition:

After a few smuggling jaunts across the U. S.-Canadian border, Ray would go to Birmingham, "lie low," and await instructions.

As promised, Ray is quoted, "Raoul" appeared in Birmingham, gave Ray $2,000 with which to buy a white 1966 Mustang and $500 for "living expenses," and again told Ray to await instructions.

In December, 1967, Ray was summoned to New Orleans and told there was "one more job to do" in "two or three months" and that then Ray would be "finished" and would "for sure" get "complete travel papers and $12,000," the article quotes Ray.

In March, 1968, Ray was summoned from California to Selma, Ala., where Dr. King was to appear, and on March 23, Ray went to Atlanta,